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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,002	10/17/2001	Wayne M. Barnes	TKR 2050.1	6531

26263 7590 03/31/2003

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CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080

EXAMINER

HASHEMI, SHAR S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1637

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2003

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 1637

### *Interference*

1. All claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, *ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

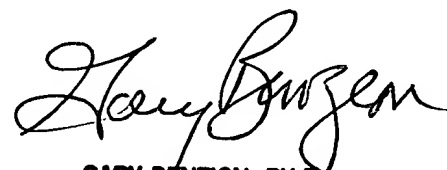
### CONCLUSION

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shar Hashemi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4840 and whose e-mail address is [shar.hashemi@uspto.gov](mailto:shar.hashemi@uspto.gov). However, the Office cannot guarantee security through the e-mail system nor should official papers be transmitted through this route. The examiner is on flex-time schedule and can be best reached on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion, can be reached on (703) 308-1119.

Any inquiry of a general nature, matching or filed papers or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tracey Johnson for Art Unit 1637 whose telephone number is (703) 305-2982.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Center numbers for Group 1600 are Voice (703) 308-1235 and Before Final FAX (703) 872-9306 or After Final FAX (703) 308-9307.

March 26, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RTH" or similar, written in a cursive style.A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Benzion", written in a cursive style.

**GARY BENZION, PH.D**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600**